

## Information Item

### *California Postsecondary Education Commission*

Executive Director's Report, February 2001

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Executive Director Warren Fox will discuss issues of mutual concern to the commissioners. Among the items he will discuss are the publication of the *California Colleges and Universities, 2000: A Guide to California's Degree-Granting Institutions and to Their Degree, Certificate, and Credential Programs*. In addition, he will discuss the Commission's budget as proposed in the Governor's State Budget for 2001-02. Finally, Director Fox will provide an update on the Commission's administration of and increased federal support for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development State Grant Program.

*Presenter:* Warren H. Fox, Executive Director.



## CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

# Report of the Executive Director

February 5, 2001

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**Background** Since 1984, the California Postsecondary Education Commission has administered two federal programs designed to improve the content knowledge and pedagogy of K-12 teachers in critical subject areas. The first, authorized under the federal Title II of the Education for Economic Security Act (ESEA), had explicit focus on the subjects of mathematics, science and foreign languages. The second Title II program, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development State Grant Program, was authorized first in 1989 with a focus solely on mathematics and science.

When reauthorized as part of Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) in 1994, the Eisenhower program was expanded to include the arts, civics and government, economics, English, foreign languages, geography, and history. However, to ensure that funds would continue to be used for mathematics and science, the 1994 Act also directed that the first \$250 million appropriated in any year be directed to the mathematics and science.

Since 1989, the Commission has made 104 Eisenhower awards to California institutions and non-profit agencies totaling \$37.7 million with grantee matching funds of approximately \$11.7 million. Some 30,000 California teachers – veteran, new, and preservice – have received training under the program. While retaining a primary focus on mathematics and science, the Commission also funded a number of projects during this same period in the arts, history and social studies, foreign languages, and reading.

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**Reauthorization of IASA and the Federal FY 2001 Budget** The reauthorization process for federal education legislation usually occurs every five years. Under this policy, the current Improving America's School Act authorization was set to expire on September 30, 2000. However, as reported to the Commission in earlier federal updates, neither the 106<sup>th</sup> nor 107<sup>th</sup> Congress was able to reach agreement on legislation to continue the IASA programs. As a consequence, programs under this act have been operating under the "continuing resolution" authority for the past two federal fiscal years.

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*A 26-percent increase in federal Eisenhower funding* On December 20, 2000, following a protracted budget negotiation process, Congress did approve a FY 2001 Department of Education budget which included an appropriation of \$451 million for the Eisenhower Professional Development Program (see Federal Update item). That is a 26-percent increase over the FY 2000 appropriation of \$335 million.

The federal legislation calls for each state to allocate its Eisenhower program as follows:

- 84 percent of program funds are administered by the State departments of education to provide resources to elementary and secondary schools on a formula basis; and
- 16 percent are, in most cases, to be administered by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) agencies to award grants to colleges and universities and nonprofit organizations, such as museums, public television, etc.

Under this formula, the FY 2001 allocation to California represents \$45 million to the California Department of Education and \$8.6 to the Postsecondary Education Commission. For the Commission, this is an increase of 36.5 percent over what was received in 2000.

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**Planning for use  
of unobligated  
FY 2000 and  
new FY 2001  
allocations**

Traditionally, the Commission has held an Eisenhower Program award competition every two years. However, anticipating that the program would be reauthorized in 1999, and after reviewing “draft” federal legislation which proposed significant program changes, Commission staff recommended that no new major state-level competitions be held until completion of the reauthorization process. Therefore, California’s most recent statewide Eisenhower competition was held in 1997-98 and produced 40 awards.

Congress approved a FY 2000 appropriation for the Eisenhower Program and the Commission used those funds primarily to provide on-going support to previously funded multi-year projects. In addition, a portion of these funds supported some projects to “disseminate” their best practices to others during an additional year of operation. (One such dissemination model at California State University at Fresno was discussed at the Commission’s October 2000 meeting.) Those obligations, however, did not require the full use of the FY 2000 allocation.

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**Eisenhower State  
Advisory  
Committee  
convened**

In September 2000, the Commission’s Eisenhower program staff convened a two-day meeting of the Eisenhower State Advisory Committee to discuss various funding strategies in the context of the uncertainty of both reauthorization and the potential 2001 fiscal-year program appropriation (see Display 1 below for a list of committee members). At the meeting and in a series of subsequent conference calls, a number of funding priorities were discussed. These included the following:

- ♦ Improving mathematics instruction at the community-college level;
- ♦ Expanding outreach to rural areas;
- ♦ Developing subject-matter content for emergency credential teachers; and
- ♦ Leveraging federal funds to serve teachers in low-performing schools under other State-funded programs.

Building on these prior discussions, staff is now in the process of setting up additional meetings with the Advisory Committee and an internal staff committee to determine how best to award approximately \$9.3 million (current year and unobligated prior year funds) over the next 12-24 months. Eisenhower program staff anticipates that a new Request for Proposal and schedule of activities for the next competition will be in place by late April 2001.

Finally, it is too soon to know the policy direction that the new administration and Congress will seek when reauthorizing the types of programs contained under the Improving America's School Act. For that reason, decisions made regarding the Commission's funding of new projects must take into consideration the potential for significant changes and the impact such changes might have on any new initiatives and projects.

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*Display 1 The Eisenhower Advisory Committee Members*

Kristine Alexander, The California Arts Project  
Deborah Costa-Hernandez, Director, California Reading and Literature Project,  
Juan Cruz, Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges  
Wade Ellis, mathematics faculty, West Valley Community College  
Rochelle Esterle, California Science Teachers Association  
Jana Flores, California History and Social Studies Project  
Marilynn S. Fong, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Sandra Frye-Lucas, Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA)  
Wei-Jen Harrison, mathematics faculty, American River College  
Dolores Jones, San Bernardino County Office of Education  
Richard S. Komatsu, MESA Statewide Office  
Maria Alicia Lopez-Freeman, California Science Project  
William Malet, retired, Pacific Telesis  
Vance Mills, GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)  
Nina Moore, University of California, Office of the President  
Patricia Nakashima, foreign language faculty, San Jose High Academy  
Frances Rosamond, mathematics faculty, National University  
Lydia Vogt, principal, Valley Center Primary School, Valley Center

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